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Anne Arundel Girls Lacrosse 2025 Rule Modifications

REMEMBER - SPORTSMANSHIP - BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE GAME !

Inclement weather cancellation website:

<https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/recreation-and-parks-alerts>

Please sign up for text and e-mail alerts regarding field closures. Click on the cancellation link for more information.

COMMISSIONER & COACH ELIGIBILITY:

BACKGROUND CHECK: As a prerequisite for participation (practice or games), ANY adult (age 18 and over) with care and custody of a child and recognized by a Recreation/Sports Association as a prospective Commissioner/Coach/Volunteer must complete a Volunteer Background Consent/Release Form prior to participating with the team. The Volunteer Background Consent/Release Form is good for three (3) years. The Head coach must make sure that all assistant coaches have a current background check with Anne Arundel County Recreation and Park. Here is a link to get a background check, [Click Here](#).

COACHES CLINIC: All Head Coaches must complete a Volunteer Background Consent/Release Form, the Online Coaches Training Modules and the Youth Sports Coaches' Code of Ethics every 3 years. When you complete any of the *free training modules*, you will receive a certificate after each module. Please print the certificate and upload the certificates under *my info link* in the Team Sports Portal. Assistant Coaches must complete the Background and Code of Ethics/Coaches Pledge.

CONCUSSION AWARENESS: All coaches should know the Symptoms of a Concussion and the Action Steps to take for a concussion. All players and parents must read and complete the A.A. County Recreation & Parks Concussion Awareness form on the R&P website. This form is to be signed by player and parent and kept on file with the Player's Team Organization.

POLICIES: All teams, coaches and spectators must follow the Anne Arundel County Guidelines and Reference Manual, which can be found on the County website.

LEAGUE AGE ELIGIBILITY

STICKLETTE	K/1 st /2 nd Grade	5 yr, 6yr & 7yr (on or after Sept 1, 2024)
PEE WEE	3rd/4th Grade	8yr & 9yr (on or after Sept 1, 2024)
MIDDIE	5th/6th Grade	10yr & 11yr (on or after Sept 1, 2024)
JUNIOR	7th/8 th Grade	12yr & 13yr (on or after Sept 1, 2024)

- Players cannot play down, but they can play up. Exception - Sticklettes - a player **can choose to** play Pee Wee if;
 - Player is in 2nd grade, and they turn 8 yrs. old on or before 3/31/25.
- Players can only play on one (1) rostered team.
- 9th graders who want to play in the Junior League must get a waiver from the County. Players playing on a High School scholastic lacrosse team at any level may not play in the County leagues.

ROSTERS, PLAYERS' CONTRACT AND COACHES PLEDGE: Due Wednesday, March 26th. Go to the Team Sports Portal to submit the roster packet. **No new players after April 21, 2025.**

An ineligible player and the coach are liable for suspension and disciplinary action.

MINIMUM PLAY

Each player in uniform shall play a **minimum of 50% of each game**. Exceptions will be made in the event of illness, injury or disciplinary action.

HOME FIELD RESPONSIBILITIES

When not playing on AA County turf fields, it is the responsibility of the **organization** whose field the game is to be played to ensure that the field is ready for play. In most instances, this will be the home team, but in some cases it may not. For example, when Team A plays Team B at Organization C's field, it is the responsibility of Organization C to ensure that the field is ready for play. "Ready for play" means that the field is: lined, substitution area is marked, and goals are in position with game quality nets, and field corners must be marked with soft/flexible cones, pylons or flags.

SAFETY TURF RULES

- Follow established Board of Education policies regarding use of athletic facilities.
- Coaches and Players only on the turf areas. Spectators **MUST** use the bleachers and not fields or track.
- Chairs are **NOT** allowed on the fields or track.
- Water **ONLY** on the turf. No gum allowed in stadium areas, near the turf field or track.
- Sunflower seeds are not allowed on the turf or track.
- Dogs are not permitted within the gates of the stadium or turf field areas.
- No tobacco products are allowed on school property or playing fields.

RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

Rescheduled Games: The County will NOT reschedule games canceled by the coaches or organizations. The County will reschedule games if it is determined that the game cannot be played due to a verifiable school or religious related obligation that affects more than 50% of a competing team.

Canceled games by coaches or organizations without notification and acknowledgement by the County Sports Supervisor will result in full payment to the officials by the organization.

Rain out Games:

If game cancellation is not posted on the website, go to the field unless you have received a call that the field is unplayable.

Inclement weather cancellation website: <https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/recreation-and-parks-alerts>. Please sign up for text and e-mail alerts regarding field closures.

Inclement weather decisions made by the County will be posted by 4:30pm on weekdays, weekends by 7:30am. If games have not been canceled (*there will **NOT** be an update*), go to the field where the official will determine whether the game is playable.

- ***If a game is 50% or more complete and is canceled due to weather it is considered a full game.***
- ***If a game is less than 50% complete and is canceled due to weather it will be restarted at the beginning.***
- ***In either situation the officials will be paid a full game fee as well as if the game is restarted.***

The County will only schedule rain-out games if a team has played 4 or fewer games. They will reschedule rain-outs to bring a team up to 7 games played if calendar time allows. Rainouts for Sticklettes will not be rescheduled.

OFFICIAL'S FEES: Must be paid prior to season start date. If fees have not been paid by the season start date, the organization's games will be canceled until payment in full is made.

Stickettes: Coach Ref	6 games
Pee Wee: \$48/team for 2 refs	8 games
Middie: \$68/team for 2 ref	7 games + top 4 Playoffs all levels
Junior: \$68/team for 2 refs	7 games + top 4 Playoffs all levels

If one official works when there should be two Officials, the one Official will be paid 1-1/2. Example: fee for 2 refs is \$68/team totaling \$136, the fee for 1 ref will be \$51/ team, totaling \$102.

Note: number of scheduled games played may be less than assigned, due to inclement weather and scheduling conflicts.

It is the responsibility of the organizations to request a refund of officials' fees for all appropriately canceled games. Refund requests must be received within 7 calendar days of the championship game or balances will be forfeited and returned to AAGLO. When requesting a refund, the following information is required: contest date, time, location, level, teams (home and away), and authorized reason for cancelation (DO NOT request a refund for a game that is rescheduled). Requests for refunds should be emailed to wlcofficials@gmail.com with the subject line "AACo Rec Refund Request". All refunds will be processed at the end of the season.

OFFICIALS (NO-SHOW) - If no Officials show for the assigned game; game will be rescheduled on the rain date if schedule permits.

FORFEITS – if Team B does not show, then Team B must pay the refs fee for both Team A & Team B. The official's fee for Team A & B MUST be paid **to the AAGLO** by Team B BEFORE the end of regular season and to be kept in good standing.

SCORE AND TIME KEEPING

Every coach should be provided with a stopwatch. Each team should provide a volunteer scorer to stand behind the substitution area. By mutual agreement, one scorer should keep penalty time. Both should keep the score and consult with each other after each goal to make sure that they agree.

- It is their responsibility to keep the score and penalty time.
- Officials will keep official game time on the field.
- In the event only one person is available to score keeping duties, it is official.
- In the event no one is available to perform score keeping duties, then the Home Team Forfeits.

STANDINGS FOR MIDDIES, JUNIOR AND SENIOR LEAGUE ONLY

It is required that the winning team (or both teams if game is tied) is to submit their game score to the Recreation & Parks Department through the AA County Team Sports website (<https://aacoprod.aacounty.org/TeamSports/Login>). The team must submit score within 24 hours of the end of the game.

Failure of winning team to submit game score could = Loss!

LEAGUE PLAYING GUIDELINES

2025 leagues are playing NFHS/USL Girl's rules (with the below exceptions) and are governed by the Recreation and Parks Guidelines and Reference Manual. We do **not** use USL Youth Rules.

****Spectators must be on opposite side of teams (unless on stadium seated field)****

NFHS Rule Changes and POINTS of EMPHASIS:

- **No mouthpiece No play!** ALL Players must have a colored mouthpiece (not white or clear & no fanks) in their mouth at ALL times during play.
- **Dangerous Contact – Dangerous Play** – result in major foul and an automatic yellow.
- Head Coaches are required to exchange and check opposing roster prior to every game.
- **Maximum number of coaches allowed on the sidelines per team is three (3).**
- No Coaches on the field during the game. Exception – Sticklettes are allowed one coach from each team as an official.
- Red Card issued to a player, coach, or spectator will be an automatic ejection from that game. Players receiving a red card are suspended for that game and at least the next subsequent game and are subject to additional disciplinary actions. Please refer to page 50 of the AA Recreation and Parks Guidelines and Reference Manual for more detail.
- Only the head coach is allowed to speak to the official.
- It is the head coach's responsibility and liability to assure that all equipment is legal.
- Goalies must wear thigh pads that are sewn into shorts/pants.
- Face paint is not allowed. Eye black is allowed one solid stroke with no logos, etc. and shall not extend further than the width of the eye socket or lower than the cheek bone.
- Team substitution Area- Players should not be in the TSA until it is imminent. (Player leaving the field has acknowledged being called off and starting to move toward the TSA.) All substitutions are to go through the TSA (on the fly, during an injury TO, after a goal, etc.)
- Players who receive a card are to sit or kneel in the TSA until their penalty time has elapsed.
- Mouthguards are to be worn properly and there should be no tabs, the front of the mouthguard needs to be flat.
- This year as in the past several years point of emphasis for the officials, coaches and players is to use the stick legally and safely. As officials we are focusing on enforcing the illegal stick to body contact. When there is contact to the body by a stick the head of the stick needs to be at a 10-2 (on an analog clock) position. Any contact with a stick that is not in that position is a major foul on the person holding said stick.
- Pushing, whether with the stick or body part, is also going to be called. It is a major foul to displace another player. These will be penalized. If you have a game that you feel it is not being called please let your commissioner know and they will pass that information on to us and we will address it with the official.
- Pee Wees- Shooting space cannot be called until there have been 2 passes. One of the criteria for a shooting space call to be made is that the ball carrier has the opportunity to shoot. In pee wees they must have the 2 passes so therefore if they do not have the 2 passes they do not have the opportunity to shoot.

DISCIPLINE ACTION FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

- An ejected player, coach or parent will receive a minimum of an automatic two-game suspension; to be served during the next scheduled game, and probation for the remainder of the season. This punitive action may not be appealed. The ejected player, coach or adult must leave the immediate playing area and may not participate in the game in any manner.
- The coach is responsible for the conduct of any person connected with his team at all times. This includes conduct towards the officials. Abuse to an official or an opposing player by a fan with no attempt by the management of the team to eliminate it will be dealt with by the Department of Recreation and Parks.
- If a coach feels that a problem spectator(s) is not a team supporter, the coach should request the official to remove the spectator from the vicinity.

JUNIORS:

****Coaches and Players only on the turf areas, this includes track. Spectators must use the bleachers, not on field or track.****

1. 25-minute halves - running time with the clock stopped during fouls within the critical scoring area in the last minute of the second half and during timeouts. MAXIMUM 5-minute half-time.
2. One 1-minute time out per team per half. Injuries are running time unless in last minute of game.
3. Junior A Full Checking
4. Junior B&C Transitional checking
5. Once the Leading team is up by 5 goals, possession can be awarded to the trailing team. Take back to draw with leading team draw player 4m in front of trailing team draw player with possession. Play begins on referee whistle and hand signal. Only midfielders between restraining lines/on circle just like a draw; attack releases to redefend only on referee whistle. Up to the coach's discretion (for the trailing team) to take it or not (in which case draw would continue)

Note: Head contact deemed incidental by the official will not be carded. Contact initiated by the attacker may result in a card to the attacker.

MIDDIES:

1. 25-minute halves - running time with the clock stopped during fouls within the critical scoring area in the last minute of the second half and during timeouts. MAXIMUM 5-minute half time.
2. One 1-minute time out per team per half. Injuries are running time unless in last minute of game.
3. Middle A Full Checking
4. Middle B&C Transitional checking.
5. Stick follow-through not allowed in goal circle.
6. Once the Leading team is up by 5 goals, possession can be awarded to the trailing team. Take back to draw with leading team draw player 4m in front of trailing team draw player with possession. Play begins on referee whistle and hand signal. Only midfielders between restraining lines/on circle just like a draw; attack releases to redefend only on referee whistle. Up to the coach's discretion (for the trailing team) to take it or not (in which case draw would continue)

Note: Head contact deemed incidental by the official will not be carded. Contact initiated by the attacker may result in a card to the attacker.

PEE WEE:

****All spectators are required to be across the field from the player's bench. No spectators on the end lines.**

1. 20-minute halves – running time (no stopped clock). Maximum – 5-minute half-time
2. One 1-minute time out per team per half. Clock will stop for the time out. Injuries are running time unless in last minute of game.
3. Teams will play eight (8) players at a time. Seven (7) field players and a goalie.
4. Two (2) passes from possession before a shot can be taken. Passes by goalies, hand-offs, and underhanded passes are excluded. Pass count continues even if there is a whistle. This means that free position shots will be utilized, including 8-meter shots. An exception to the 2-pass requirement is a major foul inside the 8-m arc; in this case player may shoot without regard to the pass count.
5. Playing field should be approximately sixty (60) to seventy (70) yards in length from end line to end line, a goal line fifteen (15) yards from end line, a midfield line at thirty (30) - thirty-five (35) yards from the end line, and width is thirty-five (35) - forty-five (45) yards. Fields should have an 8-meter arc.
6. Only 5 field players allowed past midfield. Goalie cannot go past midfield.
7. No Checking. If a player maintains a good defensive checking position for 3 seconds it will result in a turnover. The 3 seconds will NOT be counted out loud.
8. No zone defense, man-to-man only. No double-teams
9. Draw to start each half. Draw after every goal unless a team is 5 or more goals down then they will be awarded the ball at the center. Coaches need to inform officials of the draw possession. Players other than those involved in the draw need to be 4+ meters away.
10. Score of game will not be recorded.
11. Stick follow through not allowed in goal circle.
12. Goalie deputizing is not allowed on this level.

STICKLETTES:

****All spectators are required to be across the field from the player's bench. No spectators on the end lines.**

1. Sticklettes focus on fun and instruction
2. 20-minute halves – running time with no stopped clock. No time-outs. 5-minute half time. Draw after all goals.
3. Teams will play six players at a time. NO GOALIE and No Target/Shooting Net.
4. One coach from each team will officiate.
5. One pass from possession before a shot can be taken. One pass must be made after any whistle. Hand-offs, and underhanded passes excluded.
6. Five-second rule – A player who has held the ball for more than 5 seconds must make a pass before shooting.
7. Playing field should be approximately fifty-(50) yards in length from goal to goal and 40 yards wide.
8. No Checking.
9. No zone defense, man-to-man only. No double-teams.
10. No 3-second violations in the 8-meter arc.
11. Score will not be recorded.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES:

- *All games are considered complete after 50% of game has been played.*

WEEKDAY

Games on Turf Fields will be called at the field by the officials.

Grass Fields - Commissioners or Coaches must call (or email) the Sports Supervisor at Recreation & Parks by 3:00pm on weekday game days if your grass field is not in playable condition for that night's game. Phone – (410) 222-7310, or email (preferred) rpshal96@aacounty.org

- Only cancellations for the *entire* county will be posted on the website.
- Cancellations for individual grass fields are the responsibility of the home team. The Sports Supervisor must be notified by e-mail before 7:00 am of cancellation.
- The sports supervisor will notify the head of the officials.
- Inclement weather decisions made by the County will be posted at 4:30 pm on weekdays. Please check the website www.aacounty.org/recparks for county-wide cancellations.
- If games have not been cancelled County-wide (there will **NOT** be an update), go to the field where the official will determine if the field is playable. If the game is cancelled at the site, all games will be cancelled at that location and it is up to the home team commissioner/head coach to call:
 - The head of the officials (*Commissioners will have the number for the Officials*)
 - All teams scheduled to play at their field on that day.
 - The Sports Supervisor's voice mail (410-222-7310).
- If it rains after the game has started, officials will determine if the game should be stopped for inclement weather. If the game is cancelled, all games will be cancelled at that location. Once a decision has been made, the head coaches should notify the commissioner and the commissioner should notify:
 - The head of the officials (*Commissioners will have the number for the Officials*)
 - All teams scheduled to play at their field on that day.
 - The Sports Supervisor's voice mail (410-222-7310).

WEEKEND

Games on Turf Fields will be called at the field by the officials.

Grass Fields:

SATURDAY: It is the responsibility of each organization's commissioner to determine if their field is playable. If field is unplayable, notification must be given to Sports Supervisor (and any opposing teams scheduled to play on that field) by 7:00am. Only County-wide cancellations will be posted on the county website by 7:30 am. The Sports Supervisor will notify the head of officials.

SUNDAY: It is the responsibility of each organization's commissioner to determine if their field is playable. If field is unplayable, notification must be given to Sports Supervisor by 10:00 a.m. Only County-wide cancellations will be posted on the county website by 10:30 a.m. Sports Supervisor will notify the head of officials.